



Office of Licensing, Vermont Agency of Education. 219 N. Main St., Suite 402, Barre, VT 05641

Peer Review FAQ

What is Peer Review?

Vermont's alternate route to licensure is Peer Review. The Peer Review Program is for individuals who have acquired the knowledge and skills needed to meet the *Vermont CORE Teaching Standards and Progression Indicators* and the competencies and requirements of the endorsement sought through a combination of coursework and experiences rather than through a traditional preparation program. Proficiency is demonstrated by developing a formal portfolio that is evaluated by a Panel of expert educators. Successful Peer Review candidates may be recommended for an initial educator license, or add an additional endorsement to an existing educator license.

What is required to be accepted into the Peer Review Program?

In order to be considered for Peer Review all prospective applicants must hold a minimum of a baccalaureate degree and have attained a 3.0 average. Some endorsements also require a specified advanced degree, or major in a content area. Applicants who did not attain a 3.0 average may also be considered for acceptance into the Peer Review program by first passing the Praxis CORE Academic Skills Test.

What do I need to include in a Peer Review application?

For a Peer Review application to be complete the following must be included:

- Completed Peer Review Application
- Official copy of undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) transcripts with the degree and date conferred indicated
- A current resume
- A non-refundable check for \$40 payable to the *Vermont Agency of Education*

Do I have to take Praxis tests prior to submitting a Peer Review Portfolio?

No. However, qualifying Praxis scores are required for licensure (educators must demonstrate that they are able to attain licensure by submitting passing scores with their completed portfolio). Passing scores on the Praxis CORE are also clear evidence that a candidate meets portions of the General Requirement #4, "the ability to communicate effectively in speaking,

writing and other forms of creative expression and the ability to apply basic mathematical skills, critical thinking skills, and creative thinking skills.”

Do I need to student teach?

Regulations state that anyone seeking initial licensure must submit “evidence of at least 13 consecutive weeks of student teaching, or an equivalent learning experience” (General Requirement #3). If you have not completed student teaching but have a substantial amount of supervised experiences working with students in the endorsement area you seek, your Panel may determine that you have had an “equivalent learning experience.”

How long does it take to go through Peer Review?

The answer to this question depends mainly on how quickly you complete your portfolio and the outcome of the Peer Review Panel’s evaluation of your work. It can take up to two (2) months from the time a portfolio is received for an applicant to be notified as to the outcome of the Peer Review portfolio evaluation. Please keep in mind that March through August is the busiest time for Peer Review and it could take longer to complete the process if you submit a portfolio during these months.

How long do I have to submit my portfolio once it has been determined that I am eligible to seek licensure or additional endorsement through Peer Review?

You have one year from the date of your eligibility letter to submit a portfolio. If you are unable to submit your portfolio within the year, you will need to re-apply for peer review.

Is there reciprocity for licenses obtained through Vermont’s Peer Review Program with other states?

This depends upon the state in which you are seeking reciprocity. Some states who participate in the NASDTEC Interstate Reciprocity contract do not recognize licenses obtained through any alternate routes. The best way to find out is to contact the licensing or certification office of the state in which you would like to work.

Does a Vermont license obtained through Peer Review look any different than one obtained by completing an approved program?

No, there is nothing on the license that indicates that the person went through Peer Review as an alternative to an approved program. However, a review of your transcripts would show that you did not complete an approved educator licensing program.